



# Crop Progress and Condition

**USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office**  
Herman Ellison, State Statistician  
P. O. Box 1659  
Richmond, VA 23218-1659  
(804) 771-2493  
**Homepage:** <http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

**In Cooperation with:**  
U.S. Dept. of Commerce - NOAA  
Virginia Tech  
Virginia State University  
Virginia Cooperative Extension Service  
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Released: October 3, 2016 Issue: 30-16

**Agricultural News:** Days suitable for fieldwork were 3.8. More rain fell this week, at times it was heavy; there was some flash flooding and work in the fields was limited. Farming activities included making hay and planting cover crops in the earlier part of the week.

**SOIL MOISTURE and SUPPLIES for week ending 10/02/16**

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	8	25	51	16
Subsoil	7	24	61	8
Hay & Roughage	7	20	66	7

- Represents zero.

**CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 10/02/16**

Crop/Livestock	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Cotton	-	4	42	54	-
Hay, Alfalfa	3	14	41	39	3
Hay, Other	5	21	36	35	3
Peanuts	-	3	25	68	4
Soybeans	1	18	31	39	11
Pasture	10	22	38	27	3
Livestock	1	5	26	57	11

-Represents zero.

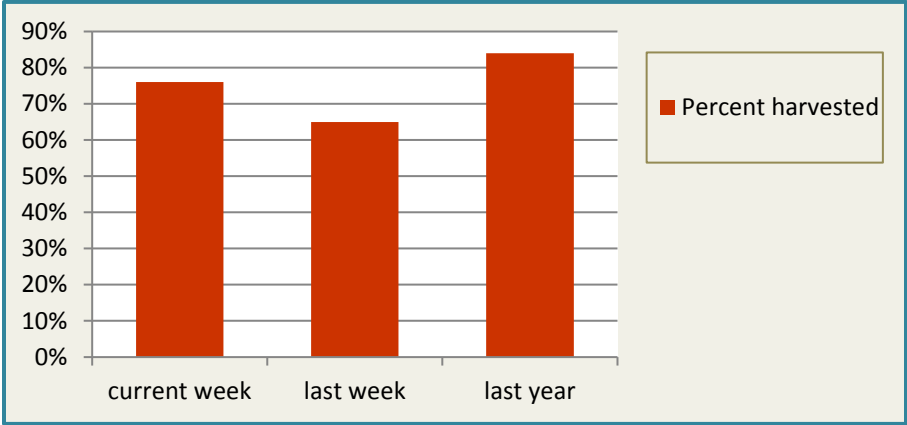
**CROP PROGRESS for week ending 10/02/16**

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Apples harvested	76	65	84	-
Barley planted	15	2	24	35
Corn dented	97	94	97	97
Corn mature	89	82	93	91
Corn for grain harvested	63	55	64	66
Corn for silage harvested	91	86	94	90
Cotton bolls opening	66	54	86	85
Peanuts harvested	19	4	9	7

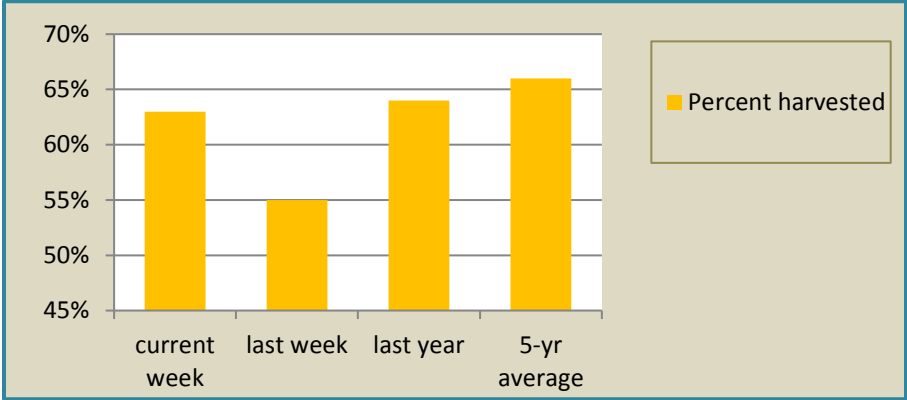
Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Soybeans setting pods	97	92	98	99
Soybeans dropping leaves	36	27	51	44
Tobacco, Flue-cured harvested	76	69	84	81
Winter Wheat planted	6	1	8	14

- Represents data not available.

APPLES HARVESTED for week ending 10/02/16



CORN FOR GRAIN HARVESTED for week ending 10/02/16



Weather Summary- For the week ending October 2, 2016

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Oct. 1	Mar. 1 to Oct. 1 norm	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	74	63	78	61	69	6	3941	3553	1.81	3.39	-0.59	37.11	3.38
Norfolk	79	67	84	59	73	5	4493	3962	0.40	13.55	9.37	55.92	19.61
Richmond	75	65	80	63	70	4	4198	3848	7.26	11.23	7.12	44.66	10.31
Roanoke	75	63	82	58	69	5	4155	NA	3.59	4.76	0.80	38.53	5.03
Wash/Dulles	69	59	77	54	64	1	3925	NA	2.35	2.76	-1.18	30.75	-1.28

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. NA-Not available. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY** – Comments are based on remarks made by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

ROCKINGHAM (Doug Horn)

Much needed rain fell over several days, about 2 to 2.5 inches throughout the county.

## WESTERN

### **ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)**

Heavy rains Thursday and Friday mostly restored depleted soil moisture levels and quickly brought a marked improvement to pastures. Rainfall totals for the week ranged from well over 3 inches to just over an inch in different parts of Rockbridge.

### **HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)**

Some minor flash flooding with most areas receiving well over 4 inches of much needed rainfall.

## CENTRAL

### **AMELIA (Laura Siegle)**

We've been in dire need of moisture, but rains this week have been excessive for a short period. Flooding has not been major, but our soils are saturated in most places. A number of producers were out doing night chores ahead of this round of rain. I expect that this round of storms and perhaps the upcoming hurricane, if it impacts us, could have an effect on soybean seed quality, per some recent comments from Dr. David Holshouser at the Tidewater AREC. Many fields are in beginning through advanced stages of leaf drop, with some in various stages of dry down. I do expect our forages to benefit considerably from the moisture and green up more in the coming days.

### **CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)**

Recent tropical rains have tampered with harvest of corn. Many early season soybeans are reaching maturity, but farmers still have a lot of corn to harvest. This rain delay has also delayed small grain from being planted.

### **NELSON (Michael LaChance)**

Last week was dominated by heavy cloud cover and rain. Evening temperatures were ideal for fruit quality development. Initial estimates are both apples and peach volume are down by 33% from normal. Peach harvest has come to a close, grape harvest is waiting for the effects of last week's rain to be minimized. Pick your own pumpkins and apple festivals are bringing agriculture tourism sales to the county. Mountain sides are showing signs of drought stress.

### **FLUVANNA (John Thompson)**

Recent rains are a major help to soil moisture, and will assist forward thinking grazers in stockpiling cool season grasses for winter grazing. However, hot and dry conditions during the mid and late summer has set pastures far enough behind, stockpiling will be difficult for those who were unable to limit/manage grazing during that time.

### **POWHATAN (Rachel Grosse)**

3 inches of rain last week.

### **CAMPBELL (Todd Scott)**

The local apple orchard informed me that they will have no apple crop due to late frost and hail damage from storms. Campbell County went from very dry in late August through September, to a deluge of water at the end of the month. From scouting soybean fields, I am seeing thin pods with small, poor quality beans.

## EASTERN

### **KING GEORGE (Mike Broaddus)**

Recent tropical rains have tampered with harvest of corn. Many early season soybeans are reaching maturity, but farmers still have a lot of corn to harvest. This rain delay has also delayed small grain from being planted.

### **GLOUCESTER/MATHEWS/MIDDLESEX (David Moore)**

Heavy rains for most of last weekend and some during the week. Areas have had anywhere from 5 to almost 10 inches around. Field harvest and prep has stopped for a few days. More rain predicted for the weekend and also possibility of Matthew "system" to hit this coming week. Rains will help haymaking and will also help cover crops and will lend a little help to soybeans although I believe yields will be hurt. Veggies continue to be harvested and fall planting continues. Sweet potato harvest is also halted. This will be a "hurry up" fall season.

### **ESSEX/KING AND QUEEN/KING WILLIAM (Keith Balderson)**

A rainy week resulted in very little field work being done. A dry day Monday allowed producers to continue picking corn and planting cover crops. An extended period of dry conditions is now needed so producers can get back in the fields.

### **LANCASTER (Trent Jones)**

This week's rainy, wet conditions have kept farmers out of the fields, delaying harvest and planting of small grains.

## **SOUTHWESTERN**

### **CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)**

Much needed rain fell last week.

### **GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)**

This week saw much needed rain return to the area albeit in downpours that caused small stream flooding instead of dramatically recharging soil moisture levels. It also ushered in more seasonal temperatures. Prior to the rain, fall pasture supplies were dwindling, forcing some livestock to market.

## **SOUTHERN**

### **HENRY (Melanie Barrow)**

Rain! Some parts of the county saw upwards of 3" in 36 hours.

### **HALIFAX (Rebekah Slabach)**

Over an inch of rain fell in parts of the county. In the southern area, strong winds caused fallen trees. Minimal damage to livestock.

## **SOUTHEASTERN**

### **CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence Jr.)**

Notable lodging occurring on corn that has yet to be harvested. Attribute this to heavy rain and winds from previous storms which have weakened stalks. An excellent corn crop in Chesapeake is being harvested. Approximately 20% remains to be picked. Farmers are rushing to finish before Hurricane Matthew comes north. Soils, ditches, swamps and canals are full of water. A hurricane bringing more rain and wind will do a lot of damage in these conditions.

### **SOUTHAMPTON (Livvy Preisser)**

We are in the process of digging peanuts. We have had a lot of rain and are awaiting the track for the hurricane later this weekend, we will see what that brings. We are still harvesting some corn and cotton is looking good.

### **BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)**

Rain this past week was welcomed, but produced minor flooding. The State Fair was in full swing this week as well. Producers worked in the field as much as possible. Producers are starting to watch Hurricane Matthew to see where it will go during the upcoming week.

### **SURRY (Mr. Glenn Slade)**

Recent rains have slowed field work, but will help cotton, peanuts, and soybeans add a few additional pounds. Peanut digging has started with growers hoping for fair weather to get combines rolling.